



The SHELTON STATEment

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Shelton State Takes Next Step To Becoming a "Top 25 Community College"

With the opening of the West Alabama Center for Workforce Development in May, Shelton State Community College has taken another step toward President Rick Rogers' goal for the school as "one of the top 25 Community Colleges in the country."

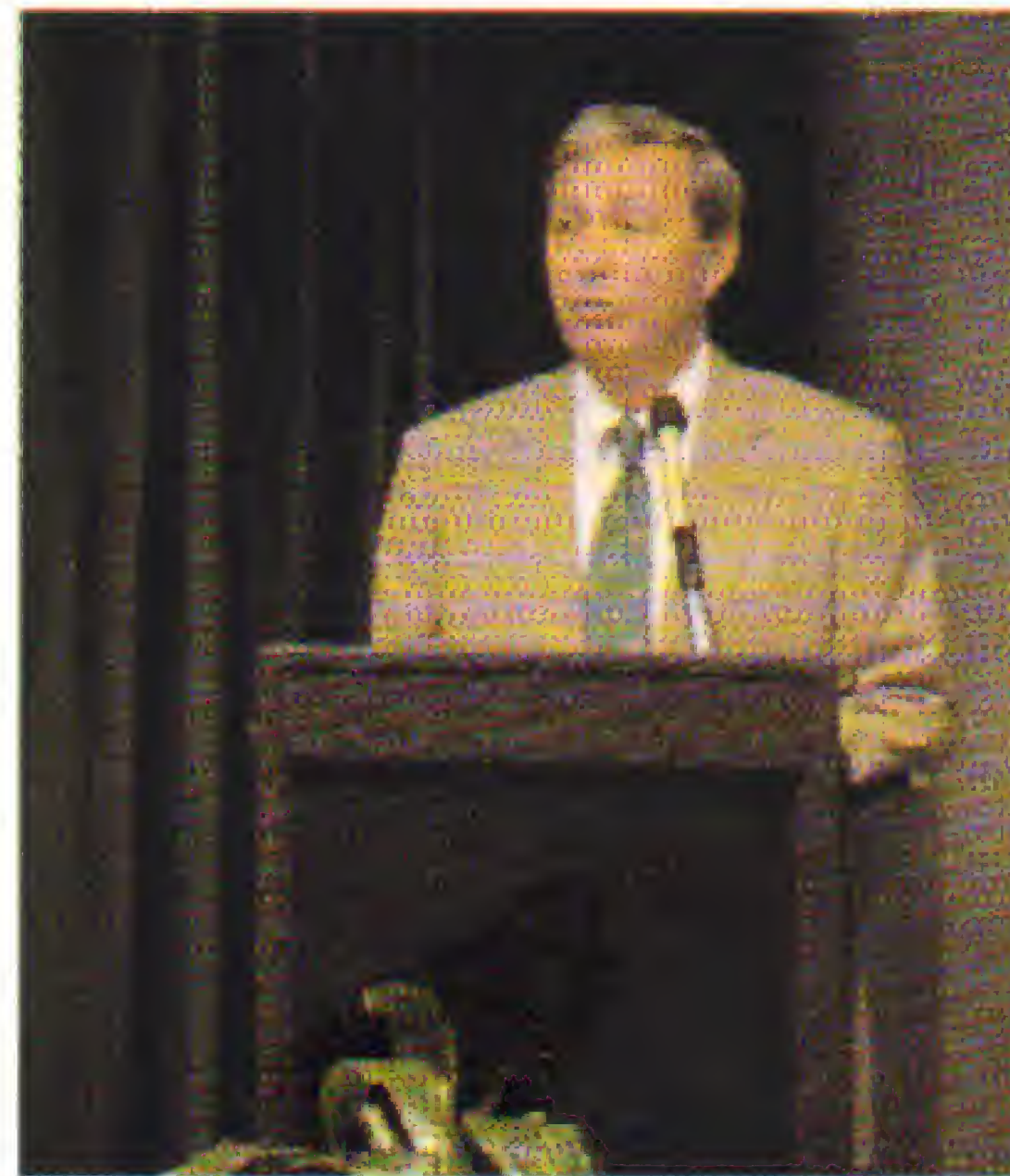
"There are community colleges in this country that are widely acknowledged as leading institutions. Maricopa in Arizona and Miami Dade in Florida are two such schools. Shelton State Community College, through its innovative programs and partnerships, is well on its way to that sort of peer recognition," said Rogers.

From basic skills training through job placement, Shelton State Community College has taken on the workforce development challenge in West Alabama through its newly developed West Alabama Center for Workforce Development. The center's purpose is to

ensure a coordinated effort between Shelton State Community College, local businesses, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce and all related workforce programs. The center offers additional training resources, enhances and expands current workforce development resources, and comprehensively provides the community an increased capacity for workforce development. The close relationship between this center and area employers drives the system from recruitment and assessment to the development of training options, including short-term and customized training, and finally to referrals to current job openings within those industries.

Shelton State's involvement in the area's workforce needs has long been a priority for the school. Since the creation of the Training for Business and Industry Center in 2000, Shelton State has provided customized training programs for dozens of area companies and

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Dr. Rick Rogers, President of Shelton State Community College addresses group at West Alabama Center for Workforce Development open house

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**PUGH MAKES GIFT TO
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\$3 Million Campaign Begins: "Building Futures"

Dr. Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College and other members of the campaign team officially announced, "Building Futures: Campaign for the Educational Endowment Fund for The West Alabama Center for Workforce Development," during the Center's Open House in May. The \$3 million campaign's purpose is to provide support for student tuition assistance and

Center for Workforce Development operations.

"I am so pleased to be a part of an initiative that opens new doors for the West Alabama Community; providing additional training services that can make a difference in the lives of our citizens and at the same time, helping to insure a skilled workforce for business and industry," said Susan Miller, Director of the

West Alabama Center for Workforce Development. "I believe that this campaign, one of our most important ever, is appropriately named "Building Futures," because that's exactly what this funding will enable us to do. Not only will the Center be training and assessing entry level employees, it will also accommodate those in the workforce who are in need of flexible and immediate skills training, thus ensuring a better life for those employees and their families and also for



Tommy Hester, Campaign Chair and Lew Drummond, Executive Director of the Shelton State Community College Foundation.

WEST ALABAMA CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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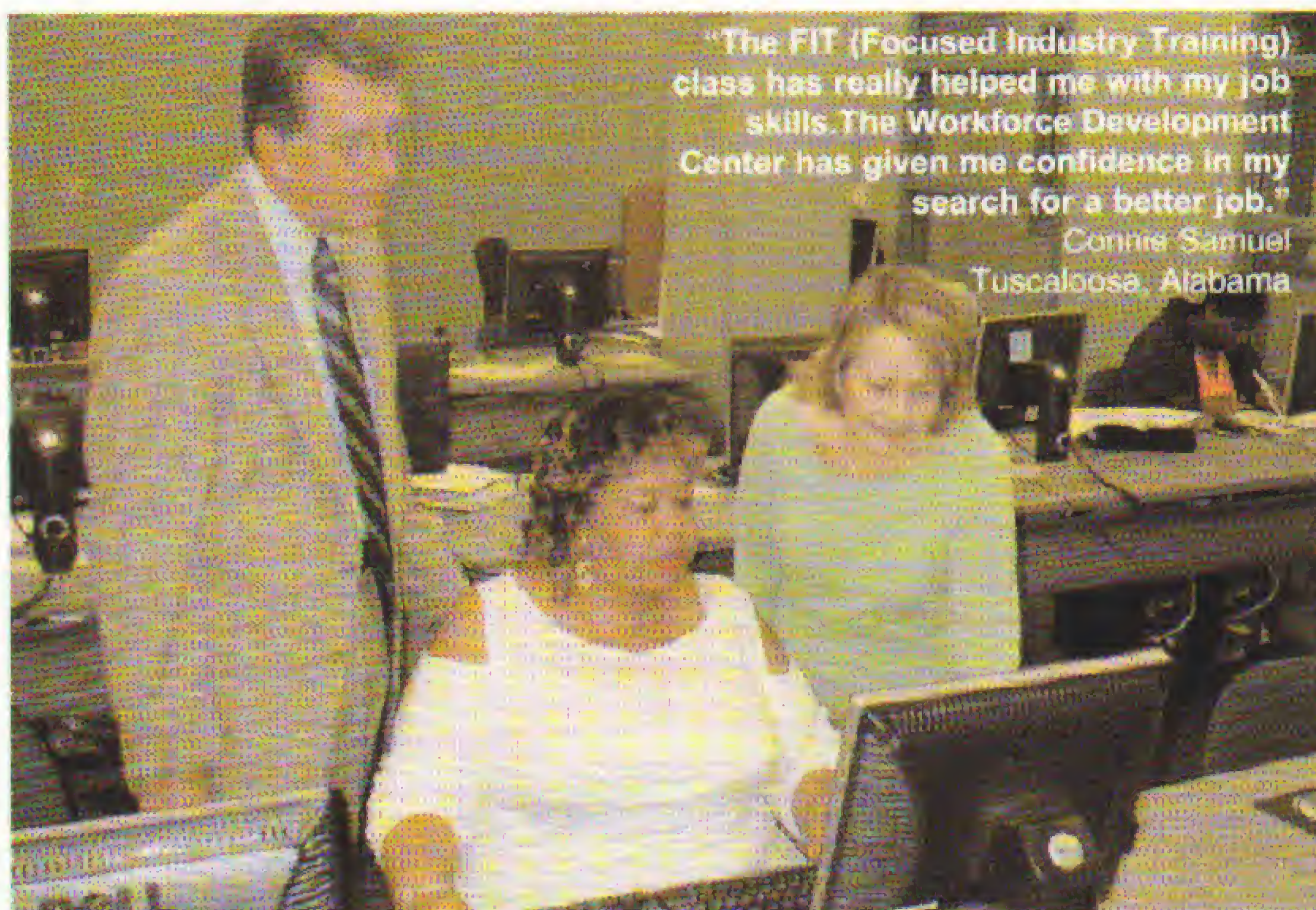
Dana Longenecker

Tuscaloosa County

Industrial Development Authority

Rick Rogers

Shelton State Community College



Connie Samuel, A FIT Program participant shows Johnnie Aycock (West Alabama Chamber of Commerce) and Sandra Hall Ray (Alabama State Board of Education) how to find current job openings in the West Alabama Area.

Top 25 continued

organizations. Responding quickly to needs, courses have been developed ranging from Industrial Maintenance to Conversational Spanish classes for the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

But Shelton State Community College is also a leader in the cultural life of West Alabama. In 1998, the Alabama State Legislature named Shelton State "Alabama's Community College of the Fine Arts" in recognition of the school's commitment to both arts education as well as the variety of programming offered to the public.

In 1980, Shelton State created a partnership with Theatre Tuscaloosa that named the artistic director of the non-profit theatre company as the chairman of the school's theatre department. This partnership was the first of its kind for a community college in the southeast and has resulted in a growing community theatre and greatly expanded opportunities for student performers and technicians.

Dance, music and the visual arts are also represented on the campus. The Shelton Singers, the school choir, perform numerous concerts throughout the year and in 2004 were selected to appear in Carnegie Hall in New York, the only community college choir in Alabama so honored. The Department of Music also offers free weekly concerts called "Terrific Tuesdays" during the school year providing performances by some of the most outstanding musicians in the state.

In designing its new campus, Shelton State provided for numerous visual art studios as well as two gallery spaces for the display of both student and professional work. The "Sandra Hall Ray Fine Arts Center" also houses a dance studio and offers training from beginning levels through college.

The C.A. Fredd Campus of Shelton State Community College is one of only 17 public two-year schools in the country to be designated among the 116 Historically Black Colleges and Universities

"The FIT (Focused Industry Training) class has really helped me with my job skills. The Workforce Development Center has given me confidence in my search for a better job."

Connie Samuel
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

in the United States.

Founded in 1963 as the Tuscaloosa State Trade School and consolidated with Shelton State in 1994, the C.A. Fredd campus has become a vital part of the educational programs offered in West Alabama. Shelton State's Fredd campus is a cultural and educational mainstay of the Tuscaloosa's west-side community.

Always a center of activity for West Tuscaloosa, the campus includes the newly remodeled "Unity Center" which serves as a meeting place for a wide, diverse group of students and community organizations.

"The community response to our new programs has been overwhelming," said Lewis Drummond, Director of the Shelton State Foundation. "We have received enormous support from individuals, businesses and foundations on each and every appeal we have made. As Shelton State continues to grow and meet the demands of its community, we are setting a new benchmark for Alabama community colleges."

With growing enrollment, expanding programs and new initiatives Shelton State Community College has already received many honors both for the school and its faculty and staff.

"Part of what makes Shelton State great is the dedication and vision of our faculty and staff," said President Rick Rogers. "It seems hardly a week goes by that I'm not notified of some new national or state honor or recognition of our faculty. Their commitment to our students and the importance of a vital community college is overwhelming."

Responsiveness and a commitment to quality have made Shelton State Community College an essential part of the fabric of the West Alabama. "Our growth has been a natural outcome from our service," said Rogers. "Our community knows how vital and progressive this school is and I know that we are already a Top 25 school. The rest of the country is realizing it as well."